

## Record Collection of Milkfish Fry

Scientists of Regional Centre at Mandapam Camp succeeded in making a record collection of fry of milkfish *Chanos chanos*. This large collection of fry will be used for different experimental purposes and for rearing them in saline ponds and impoundments. The Regional Centre also supplied 20,000 fish fry to CMFRI's fish farm at Tuticorin. Mortality in transit was negligible. The culture of milk fish and pearl spot are important projects of CMFRI under fish and shellfish culture.

## Forty Whale Sharks Landed

At trawler landing centre at Bhidiya at Veraval on 12 April nine specimens of whale shark (*Rhincodon typus* Smith) were observed by Shri G. Sudhakara Rao, Scientist at Veraval Research Centre. The sharks

were not caught accidentally but hunted for their liver oil which is used for painting boats and other wooden accessories used for fishing. The liver of this shark does not contain much vitamins. All the nine sharks were caught by a method similar to harpooning and brought ashore alive. The abdomen was cut open and the liver removed. The flesh was thrown back to the sea as it does not have any market value. The weight of the shark, on an average, was estimated at five tonnes. All sharks landed were more or less of the same size.

Again on 13 and 15 April thirteen whale sharks were landed making a total of 22. However enquires with the fishermen indicated the landings of 40 sharks in all. Fishermen informed that a number of sharks were sighted in the sea during the period.

Gopalan (1968) and Kunjipal (1976) reported the

occurrence of this species of shark along the Veraval coast. But in both these instances only solitary specimens were caught. The occurrence of the sharks along the coast is probably due to ingression of oceanic waters in to the inshore areas. Close vigil is being kept to record the landings in future and also to gather data on morphometrics of these specimens.

## Biggest Size Mackerel Caught

The biggest size mackerel, ever reported, measuring 360 mm in length and weighing 560 gm was caught in a purse seine near Karwar. Occurrence of 3.5 tonnes of white sardines (*Kowala coval*) which has not been reported so far was also observed. Bumper catch of catfish, *Arius thalassinus* continued. Huge catches of *Megalaspis cordyla*, *Kowala coval* and 5000 numbers of black pomfrets were also landed.